

September 30, 2002

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

STATUS REPORT ON SAFE HAVEN TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

On June 4, 2002, your Board adopted the Safe Haven Task Force's recommendations for more effectively implementing the Newborn Abandonment Law (SB 1368), often referred to as the "Safe Haven Law"; and designated the Chief Administrative Office (CAO) as the lead Department for purposes of staffing this effort, and instructed my office to coordinate efforts through the Children's Planning Council (CPC) and the Interagency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN). Additionally, your Board instructed the Chief Administrative Officer to report back to the Board no later than September 30, 2002, with the status of the implementation of the recommendations, and quarterly thereafter.

The activities that occurred in the first quarter, June through September 2002, to implement the Safe Haven Task Force recommendations provide a strong foundation for achieving the Board's goal that no babies are discarded or abandoned. Significant actions achieved this quarter to increase the number of designated sites to surrender newborn infants and to improve public awareness about the Safe Haven Law include:

- **Designation of Los Angeles County Fire Department fire stations as Safe Haven sites.** On August 27, 2002, the Board designated Los Angeles County Fire Department's 157 fire stations as Safe Haven sites. Relevant training and support materials were provided to Fire Department staff who may receive a safely surrendered newborn.

- **First Five LA (formerly Proposition 10) Allocates Funds for Safe Haven Public Information Campaign.** On August 8, 2002, the First Five LA Board of Commissioners approved a recommendation that the Commission act as the lead agency for the Safe Haven public information campaign and allocate funds of \$500,000 to \$1 million for this effort, to be determined as estimates of campaign costs are developed. Under the leadership of First Five LA, efforts are underway to develop a public information campaign that will be coordinated with the State's Safely Surrendered Baby (SSB) campaign.
- **Creation of a Safe Haven Hotline - (877) BABY SAFE.** On July 10, 2002, the County launched a new "Safe Haven Hotline" that is available 24 hours per day, seven days a week and is staffed by professionals who speak more than 160 languages. The hotline guarantees confidentiality to all callers. The public can call the hotline for information on how to safely surrender a newborn under the Safe Haven Law, receive referrals to designated Safe Haven sites, and information on relevant social service and health resources. The hotline is sponsored and staffed by INFO LINE of Los Angeles.
- **Creation of a Safe Haven Logo.** The Children's Planning Council and the Chief Administrative Office coordinated the development of a Safe Haven logo (Attachment) that will be used as a uniform site marker at all designated Safe Haven sites and in the County's public information campaign to increase awareness about the Safe Haven Law. The State has adopted the County's logo for use in its Statewide public information campaign.

A more detailed status report matrix on each recommendation is attached. Key activities for the upcoming quarter include: designating additional Los Angeles County Safe Haven sites; disseminating Safe Haven public information campaign materials Countywide; launching a Safe Haven web page, and developing a Safe Haven curriculum for schools.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me or your staff may contact Alisa Drakodaidis at (213) 893-2477.

DEJ: ASD: DGM

Attachments

c: Children's Planning Council
First Five LA
Interagency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect